

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 201630Z JUN 77
FM USDEL GRENADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0066

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GRENADA 0057

EXDIS

FOR S/S DICK PETERSON FROM MARK DION

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 41

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAS, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH COLOMBIA - JUNE 15

1. PARTICIPANTS: US: THE SECRETARY, UNDERSECRETARY HABIB,
AMBASSADOR TODMAN; JANET RUBEN, USOAS (NOTETAKER). COLOMBIA:
FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO.

2. THE DISCUSSION OPENED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE IN MEETING
EACH OTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO NOTED THAT WHILE
THERE ARE NO COLOMBIA-US BILATERAL PROBLEMS, THE US CAN
HELP THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE.

3. SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT THE US WAS INTERESTED IN WORKING
WITH COLOMBIA TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF THE HEMISPHERE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY
VANCE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 14, ESPECIALLY ON THE SUBJECT OF
OAS REFORM. HE, TOO, THINKS THAT THERE SHOULD BE BUT ONE
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COUNCIL, THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED, AND
THAT ITS BUREAUCRACY SHOULD BE DIMIINSHED.

5. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED HIS OPINION ON EHT CHANCES FOR REFORM.
FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO RESPONDED MANY OAS PROGRAMS
DUPLICATE PROGRAMS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; THIS RESULTS
IN INCREASED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUCRACY. IN HIS OPINION, THE

OAS NEEDS A FORUM FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET, A PERMANENT COUNCIL, AND A STRENGTHENED SECRETARIAT. HE WENT ON TO ASK RHETORICALLY WHAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OAS IS, NOTING THAT THE NATURE OF US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS HAS CHANGED SINCE THE ERA OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS.

6. LIEVANO THEN FOCUSED ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDED TRADE AND COMMERCE BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA. HE EMPHASIZED THE AUTHORITY WHICH THE US EXECUTIVE HAS TO CIRCUMVENT LEGISLATED TRADE RESTRICTIONS, GIVING PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT DECISIONS ON SHOES AND SUGAR AS EXAMPLES.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSERTED THAT THE US COULD ACCOMPLISH MANY THINGS IN THE HEMISPHERE WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT. THIS, HE SAID, IS BECAUSE THE THIRD WORLD IS BADLY DIVIDED AND CONFRONTATIONAL. HE CALLED FOR A REGIONAL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. THE RESOLUTION OF CONCRETE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE COULD HELP THE US REACH GLOBAL SOLUTIONS.

8. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED WHETHER LIEVANO HAD IN MIND A BILATERAL OR LOME-TYPE ARRANGEMENT. LIEVANO SAID BOTH. HE SAID THAT LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS TO THE US SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES. IN NO WAY, HE ASSERTED, DOES THE VOLUME OF IMPORTATION TO THE US OF SIX OR SEVEN LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCTS THREATEN THE US MARKET AS DO IMPORTS

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FROM KOREA, JAPAN, AND CHINA. EXPANDED TRADE IN THE HEMISPHERE WOULD RESULT IN ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY.

9. PLACING THIS PROBLEM IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT, LIEVANO NOTED THAT AFTER THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS ERA ENDED, LEAVING A VACUUM, LATIN AMERICA ENTERED GLOBAL GROUPINGS: THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, THE THIRD WORLD, AND THE GROUP OF 77. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, THERE WILL SOON BE NO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AT ALL BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA. WITHOUT HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY OR PURPOSE, SPEECHES IN THE OAS ARE EMPTY. AN EXPANSION OF TRADE WOULD RESTORE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IN THE HEMISPHERE AND GIVE THE OAS A REASON FOR BEING AND A NEW FOCUS.

10. LIEVANO SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE US GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO SIX OR SEVEN LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND LEAVE FOREIGN AID FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES. SUCH A POLICY WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE LATIN AMERICA'S MIDDLE-CLASS STATUS IN THE WORLD TODAY AND THE NEED FOR WHAT HE CALLED A "NEW DIVISION OF LABOR" IN THE HEMISPHERE.

11. MR VANCE THEN EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE NEED FOR THOUGHT

ON THE PURPOSE OF THE OAS BUT POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A LOME-TYPE CONVENTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS WORTH EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED TRADE AND PROMISED TO SPEAK WITH THE SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE AND TREASURY ABOUT IT.

12. TURNING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, MR VANCE ASKED LIEVANO WHAT HE THOUGHT THE OASGA COULD ACCOMPLISH IN THIS AREA.

13. LIEVANO STATED FRANKLY THAT IN HIS VIEW THE US WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED TO ACT LIKE A "LONE RANGER" IN ITS DRIVE TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. STANDING ALONE, THE US WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MANY ATTACKS AROUND THE WORLD. INSTEAD, HE SAID THE COUNTRIES MUST COLLABORATE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF PROTECTION
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE OFFERED COLOMBIA'S COOPERATION.

14. LIEVANO WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) BE REFORMED. CALLING IT POLITICIZED, HE SAID THAT ONLY BY CHANGING ITS STRUCTURE, CONDUCT AND COMPOSITION AS WELL AS INCREASING ITS BUDGET, WOULD IT MERIT THE RESPECT WHICH IT NEEDS TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION. HE ADDED THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE JUSTIFIABLY CRITICIZED THE IAHRC IN ITS TREATMENT OF THEM.

15. LIEVANO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ABUSES IN CHILE. BUT HE NOTED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT AFTER THE MILITARY COUP IN ARGENTINA THE SAME SORTS OF TORTURE AND KILLING OCCURRED. HE POINTED OUT THAT ARGENTINA SUFFERED LESS INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM THAN CHILE BECUASE THE CHILEANS OVERTHREW THE COMMUNISTS WHO ENJOY AN INTENATIONAL SUPPORT WHICH THE PERONISTS DO NOT. HE ALLEDGED THAT THOUGH COLOMBIA HAS NO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, THE "COMMUNISTS" PRESENT COMPLAINTS AGAINST COLOMBIA FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES. HE CAUTIONED THAT CONTINUED CRITICISM OF CHILE COULD RESULT IN A PERCEPTION THAT THE US IS LINKED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

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FM USDEL GRENADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0067

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GRENADA 0057

EXDIS

FOR S/S DICK PETERSON FROM MARK DION

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 41

16. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED WHETHER A REFOR STUDY OF THE IAHR
MIGHT NOT END UP DESTROYING THE EFFECTIVENESS F THE
COMMISSION. LIEVANO ANSWERED THAT THIS WOULD NOT NECES-
SARILY HAPPEN AND REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING
TO THE OPINIONS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON WHAT IS GOOD AND
BAD ABOUT THE COMMISSION.

17. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ASKED HOW MANY AND WHICH COUNTRIES
WANT TO INCREASE RESPECT FOR THE IAHR. WOULD THERE BE VOTES
IN SUPPORT OF IT? LIEVANO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT
TO GET VOTES FOR A STRENGTHENED COMMISSION, BUT THAT WITHOUT
AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SUCH SUPPORT, THE COMMISSION WILL BE
INEFFECTIVE. HE THEN LISTED COSTA RICA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, AND
VENEZUELA WHO WOULD FAVOR THE IAHR. HE ADDED THAT PERU,
ECUADOR, AND BRAZIL NOT WANTING TO BE IDENTIFIED AS BEING
ANTI-HUMAN RIGHTS, MIGHT JOIN IN A POSITIVE VOTE. MR HABIB
MENTIONED THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AS ALSO
SUPPORTING THE IAHR; ALL AGREED. HE THEN ASKED WHAT, SPECI-
FICALLY, MIGHT BE DONE AT THE OASGA TO WORK ON LIEVANO'S
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IDEAS ABOUT THE IAHR.

18. LIEVANO SUGGESTED A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD DISTINGUISH AMONG
COMPLAINTS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, DEPENDING ON THE NATURE
OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, COMPLAINTS

FROM DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES SUCH AS THE US, COLOMBIA, AND JAMAICA SHOULD BE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY FROM COMPLAINTS FROM A CLOSED SOCIETY MIKE CHILE. HE ALSO SAID THAT ANONYMOUS DENUNCIATIONS SHOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM THOSE WHICH ARE SIGNED.

19. MR VANCE THEN ASKED ABOUT COLOMBIA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA ON THE TREATY OF TLATELOCO. LIEVANO REPLIED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD MADE A TIMID SUGGESTION TO COLOMBIA THAT IT TRY TO GET ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL TO AGREE NOT TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE ADDED THAT BOTH WANT TO HAVE THE ATOMIC BOMB.

20. SECRETARY VANCE EMPHASIZED THAT THE MUST BE PREVENTED, FOR IF IT WERE NOT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WOULD BE UNLEASHED IN THE HEMISPHERE. NE NOTED THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF COLOMBIA'S PERSUADING ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL TO THE CONTRARY, ADDING THAT HE HAS SPOKEN WITH THE RUSSIANS ABOUT THE NEED FOR THEM TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE TREATY OF TLATELOCO, AS WELL. HE SAID THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING THAT POSSIBILITY BUT NOTED THAT IN ANY CASE THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL TO MOVE ON IT.

21. LIEVANO POINTED OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND SIGNATURE BY THE RUSSIANS WOULD HELP CONVINCE BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PRESENT THE TREATY TO THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS FOR RATIFICATION WHEN THE SESSION BEGINS ON JULY 20.

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22. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM MR VANCE ABOUT THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT), LIEVANO SAID THAT COLOMBIA PREFERS TLATELOCO AND DOES NOT BELIEVE BOTH ARE NEEDED. HE SAID THAT IF LATIN AMERICA LATER SEES THAT THE TLATELOCO TREATY DOES NOT SUFFICE, THE COUNTRIES CAN THEN SIGN THE NPT.

23. MR VANCE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNING BOTH AND STATED THAT THE INFLUENCE WHICH COLOMBIA WIELDS IN THE WORLD WOULD CONVINCE OTHER COUNTRIES TO SIGN.

24. MR VANCE THEN MENTIONED THE CONCERN OF THE US FOR THE AMERICAN PRISONERS JAILED IN COLOMBIA FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL. IN RESPONSE, LIEVANO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM. BUT HE ASKED THE SECRETARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT COLOMBIA, LIKE THE US, HAS SEPARATION OF POWERS IN ITS GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, THE EXECUTIVE CANNOT FORCE THE JUDICIARY TO ACT. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO PROMISED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO HELP.

25. MR VANCE THANKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN THE RECENT KIDNAPPINGS. LIEVANO POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS A DIFFERENT SITUATION BECAUSE THE SECURITY FORCES, PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS.

26. IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY FROM MR LANCE ABOUT THE KIDNAPPED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, RICHARD STARR, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR HIM, BUT THAT IT IS A PROBLEM. A BRITISH MISSION IN COLOMBIA TO ADVISE THE COLOMBIANS ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING PROBLEM HAS SAID THAT THE KIDNAPPERS SHOULD NOT BE PRESSURED; THAT IF THEY WERE, THEY MIGHT KILL STARR. LIEVANO PROMISED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FREEE STARR WITHOUT RISKING HIS LIFE.

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27. ASKED WHETHER IT IS CLEAR THAT STARR IS STILL ALIVE, LIEVANO SAID YES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMATION THAT THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A US MAFIA ORGANIZATION WHICH MIGHT BE ARRANGING FOR RANSOM TO BE PAID IN NEW YORK. THIS IS BECAUSE COLOMBIA IS AGAINST THE PAYMENT OF RANSOM. MCGEE

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Message Attributes

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